

Brussels, 16 April 2015

To the representative of patients' organisation

Invitation to EPF conference on cross-border healthcare: is it working for patients across the EU? 2 July, Thon EU Brussels

Dear Colleague,

Further to the series of regional and national conferences and workshops on the cross-border healthcare directive that the European Patients' Forum have organised in 2013, 2014 and beginning of this year we are delighted to invite you to the final conference: "Cross-border healthcare: is it working for patients across the EU?" The conference will be held on 2 July 2015 in Brussels. The event will be opened by the **European Commissioner for health, Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis** (invited).

This conference is a unique opportunity for National Contact Points and Policy-makers of EU Member States to connect with patient representatives as well as their counterparts from all over the EU to:

- to bring together representatives of the National Contact Points, patient leaders from across the EU, and key stakeholders to engage in interactive discussions on the implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive, focusing specifically on the role of NCPs;
- to provide structured feedback from the perspective of the patient community on successes and challenges to date;
- to galvanise the links and exchange good practices on cooperation between patient organisations and National Contact Points;
- to raise awareness across the EU Institutions and member states regarding the realities faced by patients when using the Directive; and
- to explore positive elements of the directive as well as challenges, both from the perspective of patients and NCPs.

The conference will result in recommendations to political decision-makers for patient-centred implementation of the directive and fruitful cooperation between NCPs and their patient communities.

Please see attached draft programme for more information or [click here](#).

Format and participants

75 Patient leaders from EU Member States, representatives of National Contact Points, policy-makers and representatives of key stakeholders such as health professionals will attend the conference.

It will take place over one day on 2 July 2015, mixing plenary sessions with interactive working sessions. We invite you to mark your preference in the registration form and will do our best to respect this as far as possible to respect a good balance of representation.

Registration

Please note that EPF can accommodate 1 representative of patients' organisation per country if we have enough seats after the deadline for registration we will come back to you.

The criteria for participating are:

- Ability to work and communicate well in English (both written and verbally)
- Member of a representative membership-based patient organisation,
- Capacity to transfer learning and knowledge to peers within the organisation and their networks (ideally a board representative, director, policy or communication specialist within the organisation)
- Familiarity with the cross-border healthcare legislation (e.g. through attending an EPF regional conference).

Participants must commit themselves to:

- Familiarising themselves with any pre-conference reading materials
- Actively participating and engaging with representatives of NCPs
- Disseminating the conference outcomes within their organisations and networks
- Becoming a member of the informal network of patient leaders on cross-border healthcare and being willing to interact regularly with national contact points in future
- Giving feedback on the impact of the directive over the next years.

Please make your online registration [here](#) as soon as possible and **by 8 June 2015 at the latest**.

EPF will cover the cost of your participation. This include economic travel, accommodation and subsistence in line with our reimbursement policy available [here](#).

For any queries, please email Veronique Tarasovici (veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu).

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels in July.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Olason', written on a light-colored background.

Anders Olason
EPF President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. Bedlington', written on a light-colored background.

Nicola Bedlington
EPF Secretary-General



This event arises from the EPF 2015 Work Programme, which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme. The content of this document reflects only the author's views and the Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.